

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An audio content interface system for providing audio content stored on
2 a data communications network to an end-user over a telecommunications
3 network, the audio content interface system communicatively connected to the
4 data communications network and the telecommunications network,
5 comprising:

6 a media delivery interface module operable to interface with the end-
7 user over the telecommunications network, accept a request for audio content
8 from the end-user, access audio content over the data communications
9 network, and provide the audio content to the end-user over the
10 telecommunications network; and

11 a content address translation module operable to provide an address
12 mapping between an address of audio content stored on the data
13 communications network and an address of the end-user on the
14 telecommunications network.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the audio content is provided to the end-
2 user over a voice connection of the telecommunications network.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the steps of:

3 receiving a telephone call from the end-user;
4 presenting a user interface to the end-user;
5 accepting a selection of audio content from the end-user; and
6 providing the selected audio content to the end user.

1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the step of presenting a user interface to
2 the end-user comprises the step of:

3 presenting a different user interface, audio content selections, and/or
4 audio content to the end-user based on a telephone number dialed by the end-
5 user to place the telephone call.

1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the step of providing the selected audio
2 content to the end user comprises the steps of:

3 requesting the selected audio content over the data communications
4 network from a source of audio content using an indicator of a location of the
5 audio content;

6 receiving over the data communications network the requested audio
7 content; and

8 providing the requested audio content to the end-user over the
9 telecommunications network.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein there are a plurality of end-users
2 requesting the same audio content and the step of providing the selected audio
3 content to the end-user comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content to all end-users that requested the audio
5 content.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the requested audio content is live audio
2 content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that
3 requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content.

1 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the requested audio content is recorded
2 audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that
3 requested the audio content comprises the steps of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content; and
6 repeating providing the audio content from the start of the audio
7 content.

1 9. The system of claim 6, wherein the requested audio content is recorded
2 audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that
3 requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content from the start of the audio content for each
5 end-user that requests the audio content.

1 10. The system of claim 3, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the step of:
3 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the step of controlling access and/or
2 input to the media delivery interface module comprises at least one of:
3 providing password control to establish origination connections;
4 metering to control, limit, and/or bill based on a length or size of the
5 audio content, a number of simultaneous accesses to the audio content, a
6 number of total accesses to the audio content, a time of access to the audio
7 content, and/or periodic charges;
8 limiting input sources to hardwired connections;
9 accept connection only from designated sources;
10 controlling which pieces of content are available based on an access
11 method, login, and/or interconnect;
12 importing an external permissions file;
13 providing a sample audio content, then requiring billing information to
14 continue providing audio content;
15 blocking specific calling numbers automatically after sample audio
16 content has been provided, until payment is made; and
17 blocking specific calling numbers permanently.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the step of:
3 providing advertising content to the end-user.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the step of providing advertising
2 content to the end-user comprises at least one of:
3 providing advertising content by class of service;
4 providing advertising content based on selected audio content;
5 providing advertising content before and/or after providing selected
6 audio content; and
7 providing advertising content based on a timed advertising interval.

1 14. The system of claim 3, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the step of the requesting the selected
2 audio content from a Web server comprises the step of:

3 requesting the selected audio content from the Web server using a
4 uniform resource locator.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the data communications network is
2 the Internet.

1 17. The system of claim 3, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from an audio content server.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the step of the requesting the selected
2 audio content from the audio content server comprises the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server
4 using a uniform resource locator.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the data communications network is
2 the Internet.

1 20. In an audio content interface system for providing audio content stored
2 on a data communications network to an end-user over a telecommunications
3 network, the audio content interface system communicatively connected to the
4 data communications network and the telecommunications network, a method
5 for providing audio content comprising the steps of:
6 accepting a request for audio content from the end-user;
7 accessing audio content over the data communications network;
8 providing the audio content to the end-user over the telecommunications
9 network; and
10 providing an address mapping between an address of audio content
11 stored on the data communications network and an address of the end-user on
12 the telecommunications network.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the audio content is provided to the
2 end-user over a voice connection of the telecommunications network.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the step of accepting a request for
2 audio content from the end-user comprises the steps of:
3 receiving a telephone call from the end-user;

- 4 presenting a user interface to the end-user; and
- 5 accepting a selection of audio content from the end-user.

- 1 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of providing the audio content
- 2 to the end-user over the telecommunications network comprises the step of:
- 3 providing the selected audio content to the end user.

- 1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the step of presenting a user interface
- 2 to the end-user comprises the step of:
 - 3 presenting a different user interface, audio content selections, and/or
 - 4 audio content to the end-user based on a telephone number dialed by the end-
 - 5 user to place the telephone call.

- 1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step of providing the selected
- 2 audio content to the end user comprises the steps of:
 - 3 requesting the selected audio content over the data communications
 - 4 network from a source of audio content using an indicator of a location of the
 - 5 audio content;

6 receiving over the data communications network the requested audio
7 content; and

8 providing the requested audio content to the end-user over the
9 telecommunications network.

1 26. The method of claim 25, wherein there are a plurality of end-users
2 requesting the same audio content and the step of providing the selected audio
3 content to the end-user comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content to all end-users that requested the audio
5 content.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the requested audio content is live
2 audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-users that
3 requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the requested audio content is
2 recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-
3 users that requested the audio content comprises the steps of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content; and
6 repeating providing the audio content from the start of the audio
7 content.

1 29. The method of claim 26, wherein the requested audio content is
2 recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all end-
3 users that requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content from the start of the audio content for each
5 end-user that requests the audio content.

1 30. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

2 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the step of controlling access and/or
2 input to the media delivery interface module comprises at least one of:

3 providing password control to establish origination connections;

4 metering to control, limit, and/or bill based on a length or size of the

5 audio content, a number of simultaneous accesses to the audio content, a

6 number of total accesses to the audio content, a time of access to the audio

7 content, and/or periodic charges;

8 limiting input sources to hardwired connections;

9 accept connection only from designated sources;

10 controlling which pieces of content are available based on an access

11 method, login, and/or interconnect;

12 importing an external permissions file;

13 providing a sample audio content, then requiring billing information to

14 continue providing audio content;

15 blocking specific calling numbers automatically after sample audio

16 content has been provided, until payment is made; and

17 blocking specific calling numbers permanently.

1 32. The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of:

2 providing advertising content to the end-user.

1 33. The method of claim 32, wherein the step of providing advertising
2 content to the end-user comprises at least one of:
3 providing advertising content by class of service;
4 providing advertising content based on selected audio content;
5 providing advertising content before and/or after providing selected
6 audio content; and
7 providing advertising content based on a timed advertising interval.

1 34. The method of claim 22, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server.

1 35. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of the requesting the selected
2 audio content from a Web server comprises the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from the Web server using a
4 uniform resource locator.

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the data communications network is
2 the Internet.

1 37. The method of claim 22, wherein the media delivery interface module is
2 further operable to perform the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from an audio content server.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the step of the requesting the selected
2 audio content from the audio content server comprises the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server
4 using a uniform resource locator.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the data communications network is
2 the Internet.

1 40. A computer program product for an audio content interface system for
2 providing audio content stored on a data communications network to an end-
3 user over a telecommunications network, the audio content interface system
4 communicatively connected to the data communications network and the
5 telecommunications network, the computer program product for performing a
6 workflow process in an electronic commerce system, comprising a computer

7 readable medium and computer program instructions, recorded on the
8 computer readable medium, executable by a processor, for performing the
9 steps of:

10 accepting a request for audio content from the end-user;
11 accessing audio content over the data communications network;
12 providing the audio content to the end-user over the telecommunications
13 network; and
14 providing an address mapping between an address of audio content
15 stored on the data communications network and an address of the end-user on
16 the telecommunications network.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the audio content
2 is provided to the end-user over a voice connection of the telecommunications
3 network.

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1 42. The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the step of
2 accepting a request for audio content from the end-user comprises the steps of:
3 receiving a telephone call from the end-user;

4 presenting a user interface to the end-user; and
5 accepting a selection of audio content from the end-user.

1 43. The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the step of
2 providing the audio content to the end-user over the telecommunications
3 network comprises the step of:
4 providing the selected audio content to the end user.

1 44. The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the step of
2 presenting a user interface to the end-user comprises the step of:
3 presenting a different user interface, audio content selections, and/or
4 audio content to the end-user based on a telephone number dialed by the end-
5 user to place the telephone call.

1 45. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the step of
2 providing the selected audio content to the end user comprises the steps of:
3 requesting the selected audio content over the data communications
4 network from a source of audio content using an indicator of a location of the
5 audio content;

6 receiving over the data communications network the requested audio
7 content; and

8 providing the requested audio content to the end-user over the
9 telecommunications network.

1 46. The computer program product of claim 45, wherein there are a
2 plurality of end-users requesting the same audio content and the step of
3 providing the selected audio content to the end-user comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content to all end-users that requested the audio
5 content.

1 47. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the requested audio
2 content is live audio content and the step of providing the audio content to all
3 end-users that requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content.

1 48. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the requested audio
2 content is recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to
3 all end-users that requested the audio content comprises the steps of:

4 providing the audio content to an end-user from a point in the audio
5 content at which the end-user requested the audio content; and
6 repeating providing the audio content from the start of the audio
7 content.

1 49. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the requested audio
2 content is recorded audio content and the step of providing the audio content to
3 all end-users that requested the audio content comprises the step of:

4 providing the audio content from the start of the audio content for each
5 end-user that requests the audio content.

1 50. The computer program product of claim 43, further comprising the step
2 of:

3 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module.

1 51. The computer program product of claim 50, wherein the step of
2 controlling access and/or input to the media delivery interface module
3 comprises at least one of:
4 providing password control to establish origination connections;
5 metering to control, limit, and/or bill based on a length or size of the
6 audio content, a number of simultaneous accesses to the audio content, a
7 number of total accesses to the audio content, a time of access to the audio
8 content, and/or periodic charges;
9 limiting input sources to hardwired connections;
10 accept connection only from designated sources;
11 controlling which pieces of content are available based on an access
12 method, login, and/or interconnect;
13 importing an external permissions file;
14 providing a sample audio content, then requiring billing information to
15 continue providing audio content;
16 blocking specific calling numbers automatically after sample audio
17 content has been provided, until payment is made; and
18 blocking specific calling numbers permanently.

1 52. The computer program product of claim 51, further comprising the step
2 of:
3 providing advertising content to the end-user.

1 53. The computer program product of claim 52, wherein the step of
2 providing advertising content to the end-user comprises at least one of:
3 providing advertising content by class of service;
4 providing advertising content based on selected audio content;
5 providing advertising content before and/or after providing selected
6 audio content; and
7 providing advertising content based on a timed advertising interval.

1 54. The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the media delivery
2 interface module is further operable to perform the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server.

1 55. The computer program product of claim 54, wherein the step of the
2 requesting the selected audio content from a Web server comprises the step of:

3 requesting the selected audio content from the Web server using a
4 uniform resource locator.

1 56. The computer program product of claim 55, wherein the data
2 communications network is the Internet.

1 57. The computer program product of claim 42, wherein the media delivery
2 interface module is further operable to perform the step of:
3 requesting the selected audio content from an audio content server.

1 58. The computer program product of claim 57, wherein the step of the
2 requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server comprises
3 the step of:
4 requesting the selected audio content from the audio content server
5 using a uniform resource locator.

1 59. The computer program product of claim 58, wherein the data
2 communications network is the Internet.